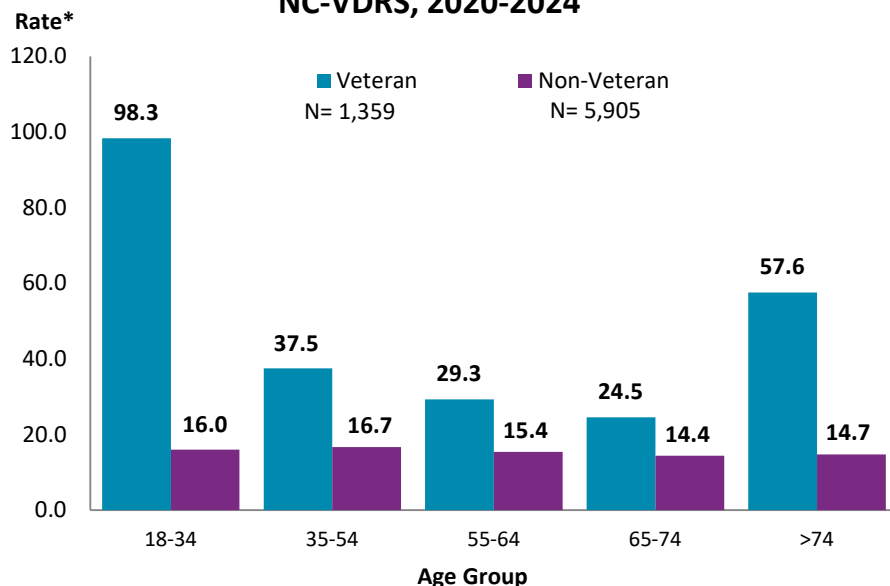


# NC Violent Death Reporting System

## VETERAN SUICIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA, 2020-2024

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) is a CDC-funded statewide surveillance system that collects detailed information on violent deaths that occur in North Carolina including: homicide, suicide, unintentional firearm deaths, legal intervention, and deaths of undetermined intent. NC-VDRS uses information from death certificates, medical examiner reports, and law enforcement reports to understand and aid in the prevention of violent deaths. For more information, please visit the [NC-VDRS page](#) within the Injury and Violence Prevention Branch website.

### Suicide Rates by Veteran Status and Age Group NC-VDRS, 2020-2024

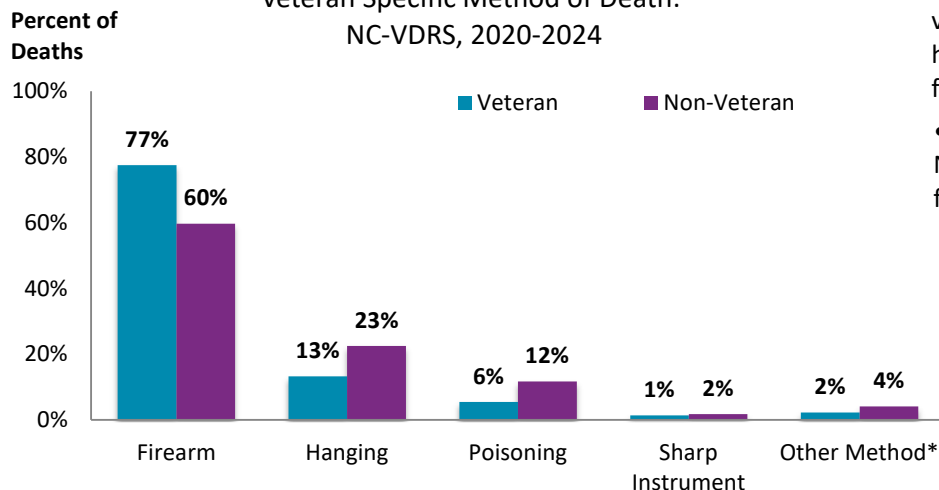


\* Rate per 100,000 NC population  
Rates calculated using census population estimates.

- Veteran status was available for 99.1% of the 12,007 violent deaths that occurred among NC residents ages 18 and older from 2020-2024.
- 1,641 (13.7%) of these deaths occurred among NC veterans. Most veteran violent deaths were suicides (82.8%).
- The average suicide rate from 2020-2024 was 2.7 times higher among veterans than non-veterans (43.0 and 15.8 per 100,000 respectively). Veteran suicide rates were consistently higher than non-veterans across all age groups.
- The suicide rate was highest for veterans ages 18 to 34 with a rate of 98.3 per 100,000, and was 6.2 times higher than the rate for non-veterans among the same age group.

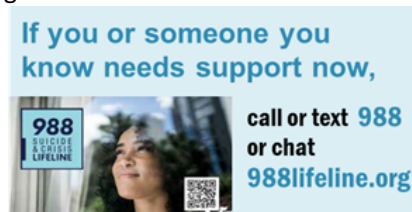
- Of veteran suicides, 94.3% were male. The rate among male veterans was 2.1 times that of female veterans (45.8 and 21.4 per 100,000 respectively).
- Most veteran suicide victims were non-Hispanic (NH) White (82.9%), while 9.6% were NH Black and 7.6% were of another race/ethnicity.

### Veteran Specific Method of Death: NC-VDRS, 2020-2024

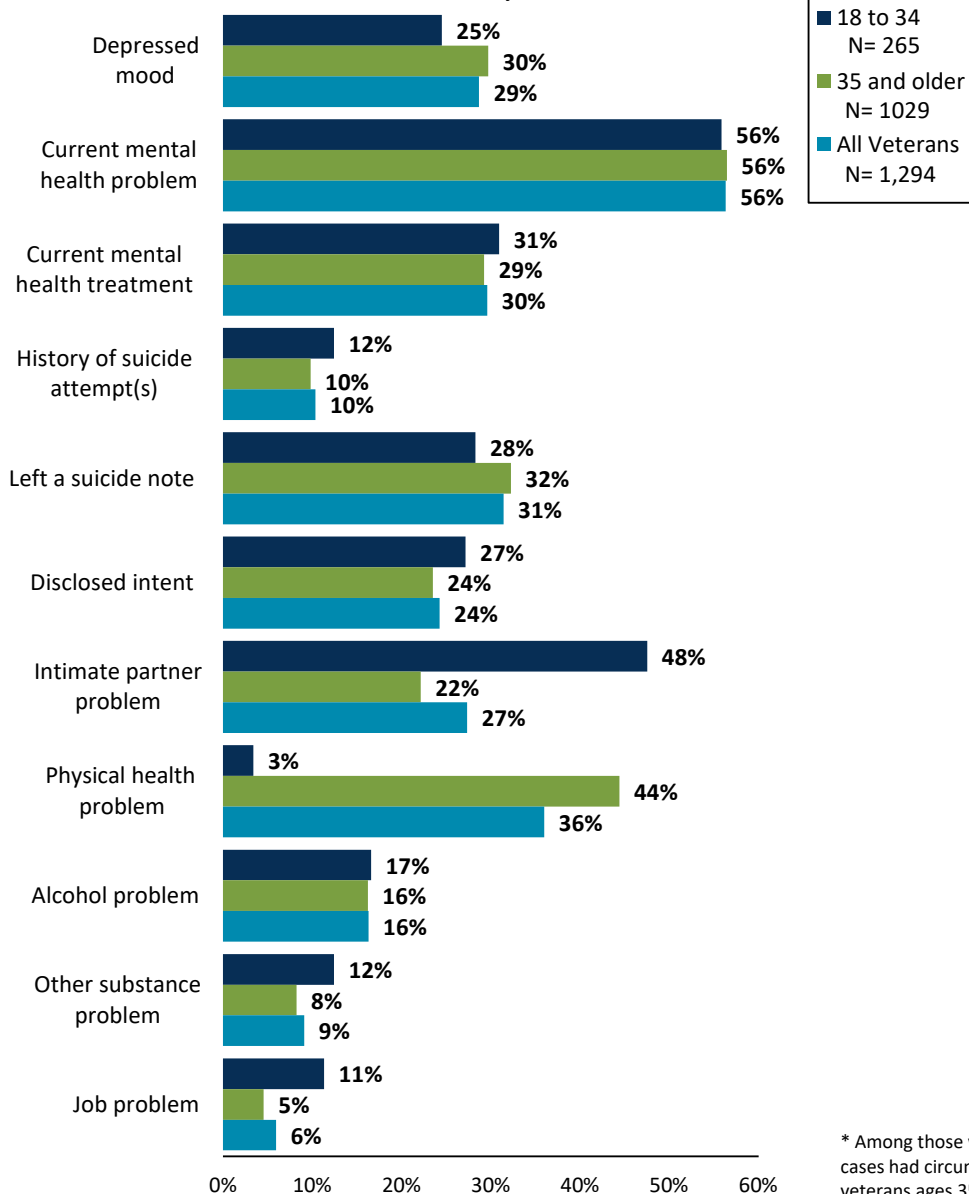


\*Other includes fall, drowning, fire/burns, motor and other transport vehicle, and other methods of death.

- Most suicides involved a firearm for both veterans (77.5%) and non-veterans (59.7%), however there was a much larger proportion of firearms used in veteran suicides.
- The second leading cause of suicide among North Carolina veterans was hanging (13.3%) followed by poisoning (5.5%).
- Roughly 2% of veteran suicides involved a method other than a firearm, hanging, or poisoning.



## Veteran Suicide Circumstances\* by Age Group: NC-VDRS, 2020-2024



- Circumstances surrounding suicides differed slightly by veteran status. More veterans had a physical health problem (36.0%) than non-veterans (19.5%).
- A smaller proportion of veterans had a history of suicide attempt(s) (10.4%), and fewer had a substance use problem other than alcohol (9.1%) compared to non-veterans (19.1%, and 22.6%, respectively).
- Among veteran suicides, many circumstances differed by age group.
- More veterans ages 18 to 34 had an intimate partner problem (47.6%) than older veterans (22.2%), and were more likely to have had a job-related problem (11.3%) than older veterans (4.6%).
- Veterans ages 18 to 34 were less likely to have left a suicide note (28.3%) than older veterans (32.3%).
- Veterans ages 35 and older were much more likely to have had a physical health problem (44.4%) than veterans ages 18 to 34 (3.4%).

\* Among those with reported circumstance information, 95.2% of veteran cases had circumstance information. Forty-three veterans ages 18-34 and 22 veterans ages 35 and older were missing circumstance information.

### More information on suicide prevention efforts can be found at:

#### State Resource Partners

[Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities and Substance Use Services](#)

[Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#)

[Military and Veteran Affairs - NC4VETS](#)

[Injury and Violence Prevention's Suicide Prevention Website](#)

#### National Resources

[The Suicide Prevention Resource Center](#)

[The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention](#)

[The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)  
call or text 988

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NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health  
Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

NORTH CAROLINA VIOLENT DEATH  
**NC VDRS**  
REPORTING SYSTEM

NCDHHS Division of Public Health / Injury Epidemiology & Surveillance Unit / 919-707-5425  
NC Violent Death Reporting System / 919-707-5432  
State of North Carolina / Department of Health and Human Services  
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2024 FINAL DATA 7/21/2026  
Please see the [2024 NC-VDRS Annual Report](#) for additional data and technical information.